

NSC BRIEFING

11 February 1954

INDOCHINA MILITARY

I. Luang Prabang sector.

A. 308 Div about 30 miles north.

B. 312 Div believed entering Laos.

C. One bn 10 miles NE of Luang Prabang.  
(from San Nawa)

D. French continue reinforcing city.

E. Delaying action gives garrison time.

II. Dien Bien Phu sector.

A. VM using arty and mortars; machine-gun fire hitting French planes.

~~B. French retreat to NE.~~

III. Tonkin delta.

A. Increased VM harassing; ARMA now states 14 VM reg bns inside.

B. 3 C-47's destroyed, 200,000 litres gasoline blown, 11 posts attacked.

C. High French officer says delta situation is "rotten."

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IV. Other Areas.

- A. French reconnaissance central Laos; no significant contacts.
- B. VM regionals, about 3000, active throughout Laos, working with regulars.
- C. Annam: French abandon several posts in plateau area; planning reinforce Pleiku, probably drawing on Seno.
- D. Cochinchina: In two weeks, 44 posts abandoned by security personnel under civilian control. Affected area put under Vietnam army.

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NAVARRE'S LATEST VIEW OF  
INDOCHINA SITUATION

25X1X

25X1X200

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Gen. Navarre, making the following points:

1. Navarre expects the next 3 months to be "difficult."
2. He obviously is less worried about losses per se than about their effect on opinion in France.
3. He agreed it was military "idiocy" to disperse forces to defend Luang Prabang, but recognized the political considerations involved.
4. He defended the "Atlante" clearing operation in Central Vietnam as essential to development of Navarre Plan.

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5. Navarre said that despite difficulties or reverses in next 3 months, he is convinced of soundness of his plan and sees no reason to alter it.
6. He did not see why he should not score decisive military victory in 1955.

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